

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action
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FROM: Rio de Janeiro

TO: Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MP

NO: 880, October 23, 3 a.m.

DATE 3/4/68

NIACT

ELITE EYES ONLY

On delivering Portuguese translations of documents to President at 11 p.m. Monday, Walters and I were brought into discussion with Hermes Lima, and later with Balbino, San Tiago Dantas, and Bernardes, all acting as advisers to Goulart.

From long discussion, including their report of telecons with Campos and Pena Marinho, emerged following idea, which they believe would greatly assist receptivity collective action in Brazil and other LA opinion, without prejudicing substance:

1. Modify OAS resolution of Tuesday to authorize immediate preventive quarantine in line Point I Kennedy speech;
2. In agreeing simultaneously to call on Cuba to accept UN observers to verify existence or non-existence of offensive build-up;
3. If Cuba refuses, entire proposed OAS resolution could be voted the next day. If Cuba accepts preventive quarantine would be maintained during inspection period.

We got strong impression that GOB recognizes that have no option but side with us this situation, and probably would vote for full resolution Tuesday if we insist.* They are anxious to find means soften impact public opinion, especially labor, student, and other circles which have been Cuban supporters. They would like avoid proposing an amendment in

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OAS, which might revive Punta del Este frictions, and therefore suggested that if USG finds idea promising, we might ourselves propose, whereupon they would endorse wholeheartedly.

Both Goulart and Hermes seem fully aware gravity of situation, latter commenting most serious crisis since World War II. Goulart stated security precautions for our installations already set in train discreetly.

Hermes volunteered that these events cast most serious doubt on probability Kennedy visit here, in view obvious necessity President's remaining close to base in period high tension.

I did not comment.

GORDON

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* Sentence as received.

Note: Advance copy S/S 10/23 CWO-JRL.

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